

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **ELASTOMER COMPOSITION WHICH CONTAINS INTERCALATED AND EXFOLIATED CLAY REINFORCEMENT FORMED IN SITU WITHIN THE ELASTOMER HOST AND ARTICLE, SUCH A TIRE, HAVING AT LEAST ONE COMPONENT THEREOF** the specification of which (check one)

  X   is attached hereto.

           was filed on                                  as Application Serial No.                                  and was amended on                                  (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>                                </u><br>(Application Serial No.) | <u>                                </u><br>(Filing Date) |
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| <u>                                </u><br>(Application Serial No.) | <u>                                </u><br>(Filing Date) |
|---|--|

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) or §365 of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <u>                                </u><br>(Application Serial No.) | <u>                                </u><br>(Filing Date) | <u>                                </u><br>(Status)(patented, pending, abandoned) |
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| <u>                                </u><br>(Application Serial No.) | <u>                                </u><br>(Filing Date) | <u>                                </u><br>(Status)(patented, pending, abandoned) |
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**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As named inventor(s), I or we hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

|                   |                  |        |
|-------------------|------------------|--------|
| Henry C Young     | Registration No. | 22,329 |
| Bruce J Hendricks | Registration No. | 30,262 |
| Alvin T Rockhill  | Registration No. | 30,417 |
| James A Rozmajzl  | Registration No. | 24,432 |

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Full name of sole and first inventor (given name, family name): Brent Kevin Larson

Inventor's signature: *Brent Kevin Larson* Date: 6/29, 2001

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Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.

**SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

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